

ST. LOUIS GATEWAY CLASSIC FOUNDATION SCORES WIN FOR BLACK ORGANIZATIONS

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 20, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute an organization which is doing an outstanding job of assisting black organizations in the St. Louis area. Our colleague, the gentleman from Missouri, BILL CLAY, brought to my attention the efforts of an organization known as the St. Louis Gateway Classic Foundation. The organization recently hosted a fund raising football game. The game, which featured Howard University and the Arkansas A&M University, attracted more than 35,000 spectators. More importantly, the event garnered nearly \$200,000 which was donated to local black organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I want to salute the executive director of the St. Louis Gateway Classic Foundation, Mr. Earl Wilson. I commend him for his strong commitment to giving back to the community. I want to share with my colleagues an article which appeared in the St. Louis Sentinel Newspapers concerning the foundation. It is certainly worthwhile reading.

[From the St. Louis Sentinel, Nov. 2, 1995]

ST. LOUIS GATEWAY CLASSIC FOUNDATION

Mr. Earl Wilson, executive director of the St. Louis Gateway Classic Foundation aka Budweiser Gateway Classic Football Game, deserves a loud round of applause, for a job well done.

The recent college football game by two major Black institutions, Howard University and Arkansas A&M held in St. Louis, show that Black colleges and universities are still striving, despite some major cuts in financial aid to these Black centers of higher learning.

What is unique about the St. Louis Gateway Classic Foundation which sponsors the game, it [foundation] gives something back to the community. It is a Black run organization that raises funds through an event that is supported by the corporate community, and the bottom line is that it is profitable and local Black not-for-profit organizations benefit from it. This is the type of event that more Blacks and whites need to support, both by attending and contributing financially.

This year's football game attracted over 35,000 spectators, about a 15% increase over last year, which means the event is growing every year.

This local sports program is certainly an uplift in terms of an economic stimulus to the Black community. In the past, major sports events have been held in this city, based on the backs of Blacks and not a cent has filtered into the Black community or businesses. However, with the classic it is a much different story.

Not long ago, Wilson was associated with a major white sports event that looked good on paper, and promised to make sure that everyone in the city would benefit from it. But, this sports event was literally a sham, and Wilson and several other prominent Blacks resigned from the board and a Black economic boycott almost sunk the event.

The event was the Summer Olympic Games that were held in St. Louis. The sponsors and organizers raised millions of dollars, but no Black businesses or organizations benefited from it. And, this is the normal pattern and practice of sports events that are void of

Black involvement. In other words, when high profile sports events occur in major cities, the only persons that really benefit are the athletes that participate, and the economic benefits or money that is derived from the event, always finds a convenient avenue to skirt the Black community.

After all was said and done with the Gateway Classic, almost \$200,000 went to local Black organizations, who otherwise would not have benefited.

In closing, we wish Earl Wilson and his organization the best of luck, and hope that next year's game draws more people and gives him the ability to give away more money to Black groups, this is really the ideal concept of Blacks helping Blacks! Maybe Wilson needs to share his secrets of success with other Black groups throughout the city and country.

PROHIBITION ON FUNDS FOR BOSNIA DEPLOYMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL PATRICK FLANAGAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 17, 1995

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill offered by the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. HEFLEY].

Mr. Speaker, the administration has no discernable mission with regard to United States involvement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Why should the administration—which has the events in Haiti and Somalia as its foreign operations record—delude anyone into believing that there are circumstances which would require American soldiers to fight and win in Bosnia? There are no such conceivable circumstances. The administration must define America's mission in Bosnia—including a detailed explanation of why it would serve our national security interest—before one soldier should be sent into that conflict. No such definition is forthcoming nor is it, in my opinion, likely to be forthcoming.

In my view, Mr. Speaker, the situation in Bosnia strikes me as being a lot like the situation preceding the Lebanon fiasco of the early 1980's where over 200 young Marines lost their lives in a hopeless crusade for peace when one of the chief belligerent of the conflict viewed the United States not as a peace-maker, but as an ally of another belligerent force. No, Mr. Speaker, the possibility of American troops in Bosnia is not good foreign policy, it's a recipe for disaster and we in Congress have an obligation to prevent it.

The war in Bosnia and Herzegovina is an 800-year-old struggle which is not ours. There is nothing going on in the Balkans that is worth losing one American life. I will never vote to send my neighbors' kids into that meat grinder. There is no discernable American interest, therefore there will be no American lives lost with my vote, so why let anyone at the Balkan peace talks in Dayton, OH think that there is any possibility of this happening.

Mr. Speaker, we should vote to adopt this bill tonight before the President makes a commitment to send United States troops to Bosnia. By passing H.R. 2606 the House will be exercising its article I power of the purse and ensuring that we have a say in whether the taxpayer will pay to have American troops thrown into the quagmire in Bosnia.

Opponents of this bill argue that passing it while negotiations are on going in Dayton, OH is inappropriate and could derail the peace process, thus diminishing American prestige around the world. I believe that our prestige will be weakened much more if young American men and women start coming home as fallen victims of a failed and poorly outlined foreign policy. Mr. Speaker, I ask colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass H.R. 2606. Let's pass it tonight.

TRIBUTE TO KEN HEITZKE

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 20, 1995

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to a constituent of mine, Ken Heitzke, who has served the State of Connecticut and the town of Monroe for almost two decades as an elected official. He is retiring this year from first selectman of Monroe after three terms.

Ken was awarded a bachelor of science degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1953, a master of science degree from the University of Illinois in 1958, and a master of military arts and science degree from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in 1965.

He served our country for 24 years in the U.S. Army and retired with the rank of colonel. A decorated military and combat leader, Ken served in Korea, Vietnam, and with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He has received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster and five air medals.

For the town of Monroe, Ken served as chief elected official and chairman of the Monroe Town Council for 8 years. In 1989, Ken was elected first selectman under Monroes' new form of government. He was reelected in 1991 and 1993. He also served as president of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

Ken's tireless dedication and support of Monroe have made this town such a wonderful place to live and work. He has unselfishly given his time and energy to the community and to our country.

Ken Heitzke is a special man to Monroe and its citizens and he will always be a valued member of the community. I am proud to know him, have him as a constituent, and call him a friend. I would like to salute Ken on his good work and I wish him the best for future success.

RESTORING EQUITY BETWEEN MILITARY AND CIVIL SERVICE RETIREES

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 20, 1995

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this morning I introduced H.R. 2664 to honor our commitment to our Nation's military retirees by restoring equity between their pensions and those of Federal civil service retirees.